

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7180

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN UR

SUBJECT: INDO-SOVIET JOINT COMMUNIQUE

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED  
IN NEW DELHI ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 27 AT THE CONCLUSION  
OF THE VISIT OF INDIA OF SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE GRECHKO:

QUOTE

AT THE INVITATION OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF INDIA,  
SARDAR SWARAN SINGH, THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE USSR, MARSHAL  
OF THE SOVIET UNION, HIS EXCELLENCY A.A. GRECHKO, PAID AN  
OFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISIT TO INDIA FROM FEBRUARY 24 TO 27, 1975.  
HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET OF THE SOVIET UNION,  
HIS EXCELLENCY S.G. GORSHKOV, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NAVY,  
AND THE CHIEF AIR MARSHAL HIS EXCELLENCY P.S. KOUTAKHOV,  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE USSR A.A. GRECHKO AND  
MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY WERE ACCORDED WARM HOSPITALITY AND CORDIAL  
RECEPTION.

THE SOVIET-DEFENCE MINISTER AND THE PARTY LAID WREATHS AT  
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RAJGHAT IN HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF MAHATMA GANDHI AND AT THE AMAR

JAWAN AS A MARK OF RESPECT TO THE BRAVE SOLDIERS OF INDIA WHO HAD LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE DEFENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY'S FREEDOM.

DURING HIS STAY IN INDIA, MARSHAL GRECHKO VISITED SOME UNITS OF THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES AND CONVEYED TO THEM THE WARM GREETINGS OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES.

THE SOVIET DEFENCE MINISTER WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE BY INDIA IN DIFFERENT FIELDS SINCE HER INDEPENDENCE AND HIGHLY ASSESSED HER PEACE-LOVING FOREIGN POLICY AND HER EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE.

DURING HIS STAY IN NEW DELHI, THE SOVIET LEADER CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED, AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI. HE HANDED OVER TO SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU, HIS EXCELLENCY L.I. BREZHNEV.

IN HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON SOME MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO BOTH THE COUNTRIES AS WELL AS ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL COOPERATION.

HE MET THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN AND HE ALSO HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS AND TALKS WITH SARDAR SWARAN SINGH, MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF INDIA.

THE MEETINGS AND TALKS WITH THE INDIAN LEADERS WERE HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF WARM FRIENDSHIP AND COMPLETE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

TAKING PART IN THE TALKS WERE: ON THE INDIAN SIDE: SHRI GOVIND NARAIN, DEFENCE SECRETARY; SHRI D P DHAR, AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE USSR; GENERAL G G BEWOOR, CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF; ADMIRAL S N KOHLI, CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF; AIR CHIEF MARSHAL O P MEHRA, CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF AND OTHER OFFICIALS. ON THE SOVIET SIDE: ADMIRAL S. G. GORSHKOV, ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET OF THE SOVIET UNION AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NAVY; CHIEF AIR MARSHAL P S KOUTAKHOV, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE; MR. VIKTOR F. MALTSEV, AMBASSADOR OF THE USSR TO INDIA; AND OTHER OFFICIALS.

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BOTH SIDES HIGHLY ASSESSED THE STEADFAST FRIENDSHIP AND GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND STRESSED THAT INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR NOT ONLY FOR STRENGTHENING PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE TREATY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND

COOPERATION CONCLUDED IN 1971 BETWEEN INDIA AND THE USSR PROMOTED THE CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE AND WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY THIRD COUNTRY. THE TREATY, CORRESPONDING TO THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE INDIAN AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE, OPENED UP NEW PROSPECTS OF FURTHER GROWTH OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE TWO SIDES NOTED THAT THE VISIT TO INDIA OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU, HIS EXCELLENCY L.I. BREZHNEV, IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND HIS FRUITFUL TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI HAD RAISED THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME, TO A STILL HIGHER LEVEL AND GAVE THEM NEW MOMENTUM, DEPTH AND DIRECTION FOR FURTHER GROWTH.

BOTH SIDES WELCOMED THE TREND TOWARDS RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND AGREED THAT THE PROCESS OF DETENTE SHOULD BE MADE IRREVERSIBLE AND SHOULD SPREAD TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

EXPRESSING THEIR GRAVE ANXIETY AT THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY CERTAIN QUARTERS TO STEP UP ARMS RACE, THEY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS ONLY BY PEACEFUL MEANS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

BOTH SIDES ATTACHED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE QUESTION OF PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA BY THE JOINT EFFORTS OF ALL STATES OF THIS REGION.

THE SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY INDIA FOR PRESERVING A CLIMATE OF PEACE, ELIMINATING CONFRONTATION, AND PROMOTING NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT.

THE SOVIET SIDE POSITIVELY ASSESSED THE PROGRESSIVE AND ANTI-IMPERIALISTIC DIRECTION OF THE NON-ALIGNMENT MOVEMENT, OF WHICH INDIA WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS, AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO PROMOTE THE CONSOLIDATION OF WORLD PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION.

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BOTH SIDES NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET DEFENCE MINISTER HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SOVIET DEFENCE MINISTER EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF INDIA, SARDAR SWARAN SINGH, TO PAY AN OFFICIAL AND FRIENDLY VISIT TO THE USSR. THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE. UNQUOTE  
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